

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is thanked for conducting a telephone interview on August 9, 2006, to discuss proposed amendments to claims 1 and 3 and the differences between the amended claims and the prior art of record. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended as discussed with the Examiner to distinguish over the prior art of record, as agreed with the Examiner.

More specifically, in the Office Action dated May 11, 2006, the Examiner asserts that the language of original claims 1 and 3 was broad enough for the Examiner to interpret the lenses 6a, 6b and the first optical element of lenses 6C of JP 3-184028 ("Saito et al") as corresponding to the "relay lens" of the claimed present invention. On this basis, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5 as being anticipated by Saito et al.

Claims 1 and 3 have been amended to clarify that the relay lens of the present invention reverses the subject image, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 32, line 13, so that the user may view the subject image in a correct orientation.

In addition, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the shutter is provided closer to the relay lens than to the eyepiece

lens, as clearly supported by the disclosure in Fig. 5, for example.

It is respectfully pointed out that the magnification lens group 6c of Saito clearly does not include a relay lens that reverses the subject image, and that Saito et al therefore clearly does not disclose, teach or suggest the structure of the present invention as recited in proposed amended claims 1-5.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1 and 3, and claims 2 and 4-5 respectively depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguish over Saito et al under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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